

**House File 2015 - Introduced**

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BY ZIRKELBACH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating a silver alert program for the identification  
2 and location of cognitively impaired persons who are  
3 confirmed missing.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80G.1 Silver alert program —  
2 creation.

3 A silver alert program is created as a cooperative effort  
4 between the department of public safety and local law  
5 enforcement agencies to aid in the identification and location  
6 of cognitively impaired persons who are missing.

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 80G.2 Definition.

8 As used in this chapter, "*cognitively impaired*" means that  
9 a person is deficient in short-term or long-term memory;  
10 orientation as to person, place, and time; deductive or  
11 abstract reasoning; or judgment as it relates to safety  
12 awareness.

13 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 80G.3 Criteria.

14 A silver alert shall be issued by Iowa state patrol  
15 communications upon receipt of a request from a law enforcement  
16 agency if all of the following criteria apply:

17 1. The law enforcement agency has confirmed that a  
18 cognitively impaired person is missing and an entry has  
19 been made into the Iowa online articles and warrants system  
20 identifying the person as missing. The law enforcement agency  
21 shall submit to the department of public safety sufficient  
22 information to confirm the person is missing on a form  
23 prescribed by the department of public safety prior to a silver  
24 alert being transmitted.

25 2. The law enforcement agency believes the circumstances  
26 surrounding the disappearance indicate the person is in danger  
27 of serious injury or death.

28 3. There is enough descriptive information about the  
29 disappearance to ensure that an immediate broadcast of the  
30 information will aid in the discovery of the person.

31 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 80G.4 Activation and termination.

32 1. Upon establishment of the silver alert criteria in  
33 section 80G.3, the department of public safety shall transmit  
34 a silver alert through the emergency alert system to Iowa  
35 broadcasters.

1 2. Upon the transmission of a silver alert the department  
2 of public safety shall post the alert on an internet website  
3 accessible by the public.

4 3. After an initial silver alert transmission, additional  
5 information may be submitted by the participating law  
6 enforcement agency by facsimile transmission, electronic mail,  
7 or telephonic means.

8 4. The communications officer of the state patrol may direct  
9 the transmission of an Iowa silver alert upon request from  
10 another state, provided that there is evidence the person may  
11 be present in Iowa.

12 5. A silver alert shall terminate if the person is located  
13 or five hours have elapsed since the transmission of the alert.

14 6. A silver alert may be renewed.

15 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 80G.5 Rules.

16 The department of public safety shall adopt rules pursuant to  
17 chapter 17A to implement this chapter.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill creates a silver alert program within the  
20 department of public safety.

21 The bill provides that the purpose of the program is to aid  
22 in the identification and location of cognitively impaired  
23 persons who are missing.

24 The bill defines "cognitively impaired" to mean that  
25 a person is deficient in short-term or long-term memory;  
26 orientation as to person, place, and time; deductive or  
27 abstract reasoning; or judgment as it relates to safety  
28 awareness.

29 Under the bill, a silver alert shall be issued by the  
30 department of public safety if the following apply: a law  
31 enforcement agency has confirmed that a cognitively impaired  
32 person is missing and an entry has been made into the Iowa  
33 online articles and warrants system; the law enforcement agency  
34 believes the circumstances surrounding the disappearance  
35 indicate the person is in danger of serious injury or

1 death; and there is enough descriptive information about  
2 the disappearance to ensure an immediate broadcast of the  
3 information will aid in the discovery of the person.

4 If the criteria for issuing a silver alert have been  
5 established, the department of public safety shall transmit  
6 a silver alert through the emergency alert system to Iowa  
7 broadcasters. Upon the transmission of the silver alert the  
8 department shall also post the alert on an internet website.

9 The bill provides that a silver alert shall be terminated  
10 when the person is located or five hours after transmission of  
11 the alert.